California GARDEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2004 Volume 95 No. 1 $2.00

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Jan. 3 Sat.
THE HUNTINGTON Class "Rose Pruning Tools and Techniques" 9-11 a.m. Learn how the right tools and techniques can make all the difference. Clair Martin, the E.L. and Ruth B. Shannon curator of the Rose Garden will lead a hands-on workshop for adults. Participants will each take home a handy sharpening tool. Members $25, Non-members $35. Registration 626/405-2128. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

Jan. 3 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Pruning Plums and Apricots at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Rose Pruning/Bare-Root Roses at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Jan. 3-4 Sat.-Sun
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY Rose Pruning Demonstration, Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m.-Noon, bring gloves and pruners. Plant sale both days. Contact Steven Berry, 619/291-5755. Free.

Jan. 4 Sun.
EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY Annual Pruning Demonstration. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Hands on demo with Consulting Rosarians. Bring your pruners and gloves to 3976 Agua Dulce Blvd., La Mesa. Contact Roger English, 619/582-3794 or rozluvr@cox.net. Free.

Jan. 5 Mon.
CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2003-2004 Robert Gordon, AIFD, PFCI, San Luis Obispo, President, California Garden Clubs, Inc. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. $8 at the door. Info: 760/749-9608.

Jan. 8 Thurs.
THE HUNTINGTON Garden Talk & Sale "Simply Roses." 2:30 p.m. Karen Dardick will debut her new book, *Simply Roses*, with slide presentation and book signing. Plant sale follows program. 626/405-2100. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. General admission.

Jan. 10 Sat.
THE HUNTINGTON Class "Rose Pruning Tools and Techniques" 9-11 a.m. See details above on Jan. 3 entry. Members $25, Non-members $35. Registration 626/405-2128. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

Jan. 10 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Bare-Root Fruit Trees, Selection and Planting at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Fruit Tree Pruning at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Jan. 10 Sat.
WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly Class 9:30-11:00 a.m. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

Jan. 12 Mon.
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting "Organizing Space In The Garden." by Gary Koller, Assistant Director for Horticulture at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. 6:30 p.m. at the Surfside Race Place, Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.

Jan. 13 Tues.
THE HUNTINGTON Field Botany: Inside the Greenhouses. 3-6 p.m. Go behind the scenes for a rare look at the plant collections housed in the botanical greenhouses in this class led by Jim Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens. Participants will also spend time in the lab, gaining skills in observation and plant identification. Members $25, Non-members $35. Register 626/405-2128. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

Jan. 14 Wed.
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Lecture on "Ornamental Trees of San Diego." Noted horticulturist Steve Brigham, along with passionate gardener Don Walker, founder of the San Diego Horticultural Society, will give a slide talk about the beautiful trees that we appreciate every day. Book signing to follow. 6-9 p.m. 619/232-3821. Free.

Jan. 17, 24, 31 Sat.
THE HUNTINGTON Winter Gardening Series with landscaper Jenny Rees of Earthly Delights. Three sessions on winter gardening essentials. 10:00 a.m.-noon. Members $60, Non-members $75. Register 626/405-2128. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

Jan. 17 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., as well as the third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Jan. 17 Sat.
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Adult Class on "Torrey Pine Needle Basket Making." 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Members $25, nonmembers $33. Register at www.sdnhm.org or 619/232-3821 ext. 203.

Jan. 17 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Rose Pruning at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Rose/Bare Root Pruning at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

(continued on page 4)

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VOLUME 95 NUMBER 1

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2004

FEATURES

8 San Diego Topiaries. . . . . R. Horwitz
9 Plans and Plants to Consider before the Next Fire . P. Pawlowski
10 Growing Wildflowers . . . . . National Garden Bureau
12 Trees for Health Garden, Part I . . . . . commitee
22 Trees for Health Garden Ceremony . . . . . B. Carey
23 Saving Water Is Just a Phone Call Away . . . . . L. Generoso
24 Historic Rosecroft—October 26, 2003 . . . . . K. Drury
26 2004 Perennial Plant of the Year . . . Perennial Plant Association
26 Re-Vegetation Fund—Firestorm 2003 . . . . . Staff

DEPARTMENTS

2 Horticultural Calendar . . . . . L. Berger
7 Gleanings . . . . . B. Jones
16 Now Is the Time . . . . . J. Allen
25 San Diego Floral Association Classes . . . . . M. Walsh
31 Sessions and Hoyt Books Order Blank . . . . . Staff
27 Book Reviews . . . . . R. Cox
29 Affiliates . . . . . L. Beyerle

COVER photograph of *Albizia julibrissin* (silk tree) by Paul Lovick, reprinted from "Self-Guided Walk—Trees for Health Enhancement Project" brochure.

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, 232-5762, Casa del Prado, Rm. 105, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 224-8271, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego CA 92110
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 513-4900, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA 92064-6847

FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Jan. 17-18 Sat.-Sun.
SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY Winter Orchid Show. Sat. 12-4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Jan. 24 Sat.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Tour "Fire-Safe Landscaping." 10:30 a.m.-Noon. Join Dave Erhlinger, Director of Horticulture for a tour of the Firescape Garden and learn to choose and what to avoid to be fire safe. Members $5, Non-members $7. Preregistration and prepayment required by the Wednesday before the class. Meet at the Ecke Building, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.

Jan. 24 Sat.
S.D. COUNTY BRANCH CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY Annual Orchid Auction. 12:00-4:00 p.m. Hundreds of these outdoor growing plants at great club prices. Refreshments provided. Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 760/729-0467. Free.

Jan. 24 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring & Summer Bulbs at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Fruit Tree Pruning at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Jan. 25 Sun.
THE HUNTINGTON "Great Rosarians of the World: Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix." Authors of over 30 books, Phillips and Rix will discuss their experiences traveling to some of the most remote areas of the world in search of new and unusual roses. 2:30 p.m. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-3507. **Advanced reservations and prepayment required** or email cmartin@huntington.org. $25.

Jan. 31 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Bonsai Care at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Bare-Root Fruit Trees Varieties and Care at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 2 Mon.
CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2002-2003 "Haruko Crawford, San Diego." Master Instructor and President of the Ichiyo School of Ikebana, SD Chapter. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. $8 at the door. Info: 760/749-9608.

Feb. 7 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Cymbidium Orchid Care and Culture at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Garden Railroading: Bringing it All Together at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 7-8 Sat.-Sun.
SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale. Entries: 8:00-10:00 a.m. Visitors: Sat. 12:00-4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Feb. 9 Mon.
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. Monthly meeting with Mary McBride. "Iris in the Landscape." 6:30 p.m. at the Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.

Feb. 12 Thurs.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Class "Fire-Safe Landscaping." 7:00-8:30 p.m. Instructor Dave Erhlinger, Director of Horticulture. Members $5, Non-members $7. Preregistration and prepayment required by the Tuesday before the class. Meet at the Ecke Building, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.

Feb. 14 Sat.
SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY Winter Blooming Cactus and Succulents Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Feb. 14 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., as well as the third Saturday. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Feb. 14 Sat.
UCI ARBORETUM'S Annual Winter Orchid Show, "Prelude to Spring." 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Showcasing their outstanding cymbidium collection and much more. Corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road on the UCI North Campus, Irvine. 949/824-5833. $2 admission. Children under 12 and members of the Friends of the UCI Arboretum admitted free.

Feb. 14 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring Vegetables at 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Spring Bulbs at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 14 Sat.
WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly Class 9:30-11:00 a.m. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

Feb. 14-15 Sat.-Sun.
THE HUNTINGTON 32nd Annual Camellia Show. Sat. 1-4:30 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friends' Hall, 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

Feb. 14-15 Sat.-Sun.
THE HUNTINGTON Bosai-a-Thon sponsored by the Golden State Bonsai Federation. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Botanical Center, 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

Feb. 14-15 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Exhibit, Wild Animal Park. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both days. Free with general admission.

Feb. 17 Tues.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION General Meeting (free) at 7 p.m. with local instructor and lecturer Connie Beck-Crusha speaking about "Organic Gardening." Also joining us, a representative from the Worm Farm. A catered dinner precedes the meeting at 6 p.m. **Advanced reservations for the dinner and $11 required by Feb. 12.** 619/232-5762.

Feb. 19, 26 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON 1-4 p.m. Hands-on workshops on "Basic Pruning Techniques." 1st session: shrubs, 2nd: trees. Each session: Members $30, Non-members $35. Enroll in both, get discount. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. Register at 626/405-2128.

Feb. 21 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Native Plants at 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Orchids (with special guest speakers) at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 22 Sun.

SAN DIEGO MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY 6th Annual Mushroom Fair including displays of local mushrooms and fungi, cooking demos, horticulture instruction, and book sales. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Feb. 25 Wed.

THE HUNTINGTON Tree Identification Workshop. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Join Botanical Gardens Director Jim Folsom for this all-day workshop using the Huntington grounds and labs to gain skills in tree identification. Suitable for both certified arborists and amateurs with an interest in trees. Lunch is included. Members $75, Non-members $85.(Aborists: for information about Continuing Education Units, call 626/405-3504.) 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. Register 626/405-2128.

Feb. 28 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON Curator's Garden Walk: The Parking Lot. 9-10:30 a.m. Dozens of trees planted by Henry Huntington are preserved here. Tour led by Clair Martin, the E. L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Garden. Members $20, Non-members $30. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. Register 626/405-2128.

Feb. 28 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Citrus Care and Culture at 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Orchids (with special guest speakers) at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 28-29 Sat.-Sun.

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SHOW. Both days 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Demonstrations at 11:30, 1:00, and 2:30 each day. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Mar. 5-Mar 7 Fri.-Sun.

19TH ANNUAL SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW "All About Gardens." Showcasing "The Garden Masters Exposition 2004." Del Mar Fairgrounds. Friday 12-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission $12 (Children 12 and under free). 760/727-7614.

Mar. 6 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON Irrigation Workshop. 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Landscape designer Jenny Rees will lead an outdoor workshop on different options and techniques. Members $35, Non-members $45. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. Register 626/405-2128.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. $12.50 adults, $10 seniors, $8.50 students (12-18), $5 for youth (5-11) children under 5 and members free. Group rate (10+) $9.50. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

"DOWN TO EARTH" with Tom Piergrossi nightly at 7:30 p.m. on CTN. Time Warner 22 or Cox 19 or 24 and Adelphia 66.

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON
12-WEEK COURSE

Flower Gardens: Year-Round Color with Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Old Fashioned Roses.
Beginning Jan. 8 Thurs. A.M.
Thursday 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Foothills Adult Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. $28 Texts.

JOYCE GEMMELL
8-WEEK COURSE

Starting a Vegetable Garden
Beginning Feb. 6 Fri. A.M.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m., Foothills Adult Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. $25.
Starting a Vegetable Garden (for Older Adults)
Beginning Jan 26 Mon. P.M.
Friday 12:00-3:00 p.m., Wells Park Center,1153 E. Madison Ave., El Cajon. 619/401-4122. $10.

CONNIE BECK-CRUSHA
12-WEEK COURSE

Home Landscaping I - Principles and Techniques of Organic Gardening
Beginning Jan. 14 Wed. P.M.
Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m., Santana Adult Center, Room 1305, 9915 Magnolia, Santee. 619/749-4059 or 619/596-3657. $28.

AT MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 26, 2004
www.miracosta.edu

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for MARCH-APRIL issue is JANUARY 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30pm
Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!
Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display. Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- Monthly 26-page newsletter
- Trips to outstanding gardens
- Local garden tours
- Discounts at nurseries
- Seed & plant swap
- Video and book library
- Annual Garden Party
- and much more!

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

Jan. 12: Organizing Space in the Garden
Gary Koller, will explain how to divide the garden into a series of rooms by creating positive (planted) and negative (architectural) spaces.

Feb. 9: Special Iris for San Diego
Mary McBride will show slides from some of the fabulous re-blooming and other iris you can grow, and talk about her favorites.

Available now: our hardcover, lavishly illustrated book, *Ornamental Trees of San Diego*, only $34.95

Info: www.sdhortsoc.org
or (760) 730-3268

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only $10.00 (single membership) or $12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:

Vivian Follmer
SDCOS Membership
13127 Roundup
San Diego, CA 92129
(619) 538-6187

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

PLANTSMAN . . .

There are many words we use to describe people who are gardening or interested in it. Recently in *The Garden*, the periodical of the Royal Horticultural Society, a plantsman was described. According to their definition, a plantsman is a person who not only grows plants but knows the scientific name and the origin of the plants in their garden. I thought it might be interesting to ask some of our San Diego gardeners how they would describe a plantsman. Here are some answers: (1) a person who sells plants, (2) a nursery-man, (3) a person who not only grows plants but knows the scientific names, (4) a person who knows all phases of gardening. Webster's Dictionary says a plantsman is "one who grows or sells plants commercially."

We probably all agree that a gardener is someone who grows plants and a farmer is a person who grows plants on a large scale for his livelihood, but what about a horticulturist? Maybe that is our common name for a plantsman.

CATTAILS . . .

Because we have beautiful living flowers and plants year-round not many San Diegans make dried arrangements. But cattails are different — they are essential for winter.

Cattails are found throughout the world growing on the edges of shallow freshwater lakes and ponds. Around San Diego we find a broad-leafed cattail *(Typha latifolia)* growing wild. Their fuzzy, brown, 6 to 8 inch long spikes grow at the ends of long stems. When they explode the seeds in the pericarps (traveling capsules) are borne by winds. The cattail is one of nature's most prolific plants as each flowering spike produces at least 250,000 seeds! It really makes a mess if one explodes in your house. (Spraying the spike with hair spray can prevent this.) The long linear leaves are attractive and turn yellow and orange as they dry. It is an attractive winter plant.

FIRE RETARDANT . . .

A firefighting technique that has been around a long time again is being used successfully to prevent fire. It is a foam made of dishwashing soap and water that is mixed and spewed with compressed air and forms a shaving cream-like lather over surfaces. It lasts about an hour. New firetrucks are being equipped with these compressed air foam systems called CAFS. The foam is more effective than water, it wets faster than water, and less water is needed. These new firetrucks were used in Los Angeles County during the recent fires. They are being used in Phoenix. In Texas, if firetrucks equipped with CAFS are in the area, the fire insurance rates are reduced.

There are no reports on the effects of this foam on surrounding plants, but in the past soap solutions have been used for insect control with no lasting effects on the host plants. Also, as yet there are no reports on the effect of this solution on trees and shrubs as a fire prevention.

PLANT SALES . . .

In a recent article on the flower/plant business in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* it was reported that local sales were off due to the recent long grocery workers strike. The most affected growers are the small ones primarily located in North County that do most of their sales locally. Sales of flowers and plants in grocery stores are usually "impulse buying." The lack of grocery store sales is not being picked up by sales in other types of stores that handle fresh plants and flowers.

The local plant and flower industry generated $880 million last year. (All the sales were not made locally.) This was about 70% of the total agricultural production of San Diego county.

N.Z. FLAX . . .

New Zealand flaxes are attractive perennial plants that use little water, require minimum care, can grow in any soil, and flourish in almost any climate.

The plants were discovered in 1773 by Captain Cook, the famous English plant explorer. The native people were using it for baskets, fish nets, rope, and clothing. The scientific name *Phormium* is derived from the Greek word for basket. *P. tenax* has stiff, leathery, sword-like leaves that can reach 9 feet in length. The leaves are green and yellow. *P. colensoi*, mountain flax, is smaller, less stiff, and the foliage is more brightly colored — yellow, orange, purple, etc.

SAN DIEGO TOPIARIES

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

THE WIFE OF THE "TRAVELING GARDENER" discovered a topiary garden on Union Street that is magnificent. There are over forty-five sculptures that stand proudly on a steep slope that fronts a two-story house.

The owners of the property, Edna and Alex Harper, are avid travelers, and the idea of the topiary garden came from seeing them in Europe, Egypt, and Thailand. Initially the bank was covered by a large random growth of honeysuckle vines. This is the primary plant used for the topiaries. When Mrs. Harper was in Bangkok she toured Hindu gardens, temples, and buildings that were surrounded by large, well-kept topiaries. The elephant on the bank is a result of that visit. On a trip to Egypt they decided to make some pyramid topiaries that are located near the top of the bank.

Other topiaries include a fish, a whale, various birds, camels, monkeys, a nesting hen, and even people. Interestingly, the topiaries are created without using armatures or forming wire. With the help of a full-time gardener, Mrs. Harper will create and implement a design, which might take years. Mr. Harper takes care of the maintenance, watering when required, and fertilizing with triple-16 fertilizer and an occasional treatment with ammonium sulfate.

The Harpers enjoy the reaction of neighbors as well as tourists. He told me of the glee of a bus load of school children when they stopped to inspect the garden.

The pruning process is meticulous. Inspecting the surface of the topiaries one does not see clipper twig ends — just a monogamous surface of leaves. There are cleverly positioned ladder footings in the garden placed so as not to interfere with the plants.

Drive by: The address is 3547 Union Street, San Diego. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.
Photographs by Vicki Logo and Joanne Mangianeli.

PLANS AND PLANTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE THE NEXT FIRE©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

UNBELIEVABLY, IT HAPPENED AGAIN. Another fire, this time a lot worse.

Just a few issues ago I had written an article called "Plants that Welcome Wildlife and Fight Fires" for this magazine. In it, I had described how, in October of 2002, a 22-acre brush fire way behind our property had burned much of the dead vegetation that had accumulated after too many years of fire suppression. (Thank goodness the Significant Other and I had cleared away much of the brush closest to the house.) At that time, there were plentiful firefighters and equipment to squelch the flames, and we breathed a sigh of relief when it was all over. Well, we wouldn't have to worry about another fire for a while, we thought.

Ha.

The Cedar Fire of 2003 caused a horrific loss of lives and property. We were among the lucky ones; our house was spared. However, some plants and animals that enlivened our surroundings were now gone.

Two fires within one year's time has made us aware that potential conflagration will always be just one step away, and we know that we better get used to it.

Or else move back to Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia, which is moistened by over 45 inches of rain a year, a fire's life is measured in minutes or hours; but here in San Diego County, a fire can live on for days. The same sunny, dry, amenable, garden-all-year-long weather that drew us out here is also friendly to fire.

To learn to live with the threat of fire we must employ prevention methods endorsed by organizations like FireSafe San Diego County and the Burn Institute (858-541-2277); the California Division of Forestry and Fire Control (619-590-3160); and the City of San Diego's Fire Services (619-533-4400). In fact, a large portion of the Fire Services' recommendations can be found in the May-June 1997 issue of our very own *California Garden* magazine. Call or visit the San Diego Floral Association (619-232-5762), or its website (www.sdfloral.org) for more information. Check at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/wildfire.html for additional advice. Interested green thumbers can visit the Firescape Demonstration Garden at Quail Botanical Gardens. And as for trying to safeguard and/or repair our traumatized gardens, there are several ways to do this, including:

(1) THE EASY WAY

Although this advice comes two months after the main event, there may still be time (for those of us who are procrastinators anyway) not to do anything. For those who live near and/or on wild areas, the advice from Tree of Life Nursery (www.treeoflifenursery.com) is this: "In most cases . . . do nothing. Seeding will not help the land . . . The soil surface should not be disturbed, as valuable seed, bulbs, and root systems in addition to many beneficial microorganisms lie just below the surface. The above-ground vegetation relies on a healthy below-ground ecosystem, especially after a catastrophe."

Plants in our yards, including exotics that have been touched—or even torched—by fire should be given a chance to recover. It is best to wait several months after a fire, and hope for soft gentle rains to mix ash into the soil and nurture damaged plants. Indeed, only days after the Cedar Fire was extinguished, some rain fell and thousands of tiny seedlings (many of them weeds, unfortunately) poked their little selves through the soil. Native North American plants like Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*), mountain marigold (*Tagetes lemmoni*) and desert elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), which had been toasted to tan by flames and given up as goners, actually displayed new leaves at their bases, all in a very short time. Some others that have the ability to stump sprout include: oaks (*Quercus* sp.), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Catalina cherry (*Prunus lyonii*), and many sumacs (*Rhus* sp.). If the deep taproot of each of these species is unharmed, fire will stimulate it to send out new growth quickly.

And while you are busy doing nothing you might like to observe changes in our wild areas. Wildflowers you may have never seen before—phacelia, lupine, deerweed, lilies and so forth—should occur in formerly shady places that are newly exposed to the sun.

Now for the second way for gardeners to safeguarden their landscape:

(2) THE HARD WAY

The term "hard" as used here actually means using "hardscape" around your house. No trees, please, should be situated too close to your house. This will distress those, including me, who like to see green branches caress their window panes; however, if you live in a

phacelias *Achillea millefolium*
[Do not compare sizes.]

dangerous fire area you must realize that a tree right next to your house gives fire easy access.

Learn to love rocks. Use gravel, boulders, and even concrete (much as I hate to say it). But these days concrete comes in various colors and finishes and if used correctly can add to the aesthetics of your outdoor environment. Use rocks of different size, shape, and color to add interest. Place some potted plants on your hardscape. Help wildlife by adding a beautiful pedestal birdbath, and another situated on the ground. How about a small fountain? Birds are drawn to the sound of running water. It doesn't have to be a roaring waterfall†even the whisper of a little table fountain will beckon Tweety to stop by. And if you want to go for the gusto, get a large fountain or birdbath, and you may be visited by a Cooper's hawk, just like we were recently.

Speaking of water, make sure to rinse any residual ash off plant leaves if it has not rained appreciably yet. The National Wildlife Federation warns that to avoid an opportunity for mosquitoes to breed, we should be vigilant and change the water supply every two days or so. "Mosquito Dunks," consisting of the bacterium that keeps mosquitoes at bay, also can be used.

Besides bathing the birds, how about feeding them too? Wild Birds Unlimited in Carlsbad and the Wild Bird Center in Encinitas have all kinds of feeders, books, and other paraphernalia to get you started. And you do not need to have a forest in the yard to get lots of different kinds of birds. Many of our native birds will be happy with a few large shrubs in the general vicinity. In fact, one of the bossiest hummingbirds I have ever seen sits in our small weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*) that resides in a ceramic pot on the patio.

Also provide a few large rocks as a basking place for transient butterflies and diminutive leaping lizards! (Butterflies also will appreciate nectar-containing fire-resisting plants such as statice (*Limonium perezii*), evergreen currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*), lavender (*Lavandula* sp.), lilac verbena (*Verbena lilacina*), and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). There are many more.

Finally, here is perhaps the best gardening strategy of all:

(3) YOUR VERY OWN WAY

Pick what you want to do from all the above suggestions.

Adopt a positive attitude. Look for the wildlife to rebound. Although many perished by being burned, breathing toxic gasses, or suffocating, a plentiful food supply following the fire will cause those who survive to multiply quickly, or so we hope.

As for wonderful old trees like the pines at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park†unfortunately, some old growth that has been destroyed will take years to come back. But what wonders we may witness as the land changes, grows, and recovers. We need to accept, but learn how to moderate, that which will some day happen again: Wildfire.

Or, we could all move to Philadelphia.□

Copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

GROWING WILDFLOWERS

PLANNING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS

Site selection is your first order of the day. Unless you are planning a special shade garden of wildflowers, your site should receive six hours or more of direct sunlight each day. Shade mixtures usually recommend two to four hours of sun, but read up on any shade varieties for best results. For wildflower seeds it is best to plant in fall through winter.

SITE PREPARATION

To keep weeds and other vegetation from competing with your flowers, they must be eliminated—the site should be cleared. This can be done in two ways. The first way is to use a non-specific herbicide applied to growing plants where you plan to plant. This takes a few

weeks, but is very effective. Non-specific herbicides are applied to actively growing vegetation and will kill all vegetation where you use it, so always read and follow the label directions carefully.

It will take ten days to two weeks for the vegetation to die back, and then you can mow and rake up the area. Do not disturb the soil too deeply, or you will bring dormant weed seeds to the surface.

If the soil where you want to plant is hard and compacted, till the soil to 1 to 2 inches deep, water the area and allow new weeds to grow. When they reach 2 to 3 inches tall, apply the herbicide again. When these have died and you have cleaned up the area, you are ready to plant your seeds.

If you do not favor the use of herbicides, you can till the soil and pull out the weeds. Water the area and let new weeds grow, then pull them out, or use repeated tillage to kill the weeds. You will have to do this several times until the weeds are gone or almost eliminated. This may take more than a month, but it is very effective and environmentally correct.

Even after a major effort to eliminate weeds, it will still be necessary to control weeds after your wildflower garden is planted. Weed seeds can blow in from anywhere.

If you do not want to use an herbicide, and do not have the time to eliminate weeds by waiting for them to grow up again, there is a third option. After preparing your garden area by weeding and tilling, place your wildflower seeds or plants very closely together in rows. The closeness of the plants will help overshadow future weeds, and if you plant in rows you can safely pull out anything that grows outside the rows. You can angle or curve the rows to prevent a formal look in your wildflower garden, and when the plants grow to maturity the row spacings will pretty much disappear. You will still have to deal with weeds, but this can help minimize it.

SEEDING OR PLANTING

After site preparation, you are ready to sow seeds or set out plants. Your soil should be loose enough that your feet sink a little, about one-half inch, when you walk on it. If the soil is too loose, tamp it down or walk on it to firm it down. If you need to add soil, try to get some that is as weed free as possible. "Lake bottom" soil or a steam sterilized soil is good.

If you are transplanting wildflowers, use a trowel to dig a hole a little larger than the pot the plant is in. Gently tap the sides of the container to loosen the soil, and slip the plant out of the container and into the waiting hole. Fill in with soil around the plant's roots and to the top of the root ball. Firm the soil by tamping it down. Thoroughly water the soil around the plants when you have completed planting.

For seeds, you can hand sow or use a hand-held seeder for small areas, or a large push-type spreader for larger areas. Seeding rate varies, but a good rule of thumb is 1 ounce to 250 square feet, or 1 pound per 4,000 square feet. To make sowing easier and to spread seed more evenly, mix sand, sawdust, cornmeal, or another inert compound with the seeds. Many mixtures of wildflowers are already packaged with an inert ingredient, so check the label.

After spreading your seed, lightly rake it into the soil, but not more than one-eighth to one-half inch deep. The seed must touch the soil in order to germinate properly, but it can't be buried too deep.

Water the area thoroughly and keep it moist, but not too wet. Too much water at first may cause a crust to form on the soil, seeds may have a hard time breaking through it. Avoid fertilizer until the plants are well established. High levels of water and fertilizer will benefit the competing weeds more than your emerging wildflowers.

Keep the area watered with about one-half inch of water per week. Watch for weeds and pull them out as soon as you can and as soon as you are sure they are weeds.

Perennials won't bloom until the second year, and some may take three years to reach their full size and potential. Have patience. If your garden area contains only perennials, mow the area throughout the season, keeping it at about 6 to 8 inches tall. Mow before weeds have set seeds, and you will be controlling future generations of weeds.

If your garden contains annual and perennial wildflowers, do not mow until after the annuals have bloomed.

To ensure success with your wildflower garden, buy good seeds from reputable companies and retailers. Seeds should be clean and tested for purity and germination. Many seed companies will guarantee the accuracy of the species and quality of their wildflower mixes.

For long term success, vigilance is the key word. Keep weeds to a minimum, water as necessary, and fill in any bare spots with new seeds or plants. A well-planned and well-maintained wildflower garden will give you pleasure—well, perennially.□

Reprinted courtesy of the National Garden Bureau, much of the information given here was provided by the Wildflower Group of the American Seed Trade Association.

TREES FOR HEALTH GARDEN, PART I

CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, BALBOA PARK ADMINISTRATION

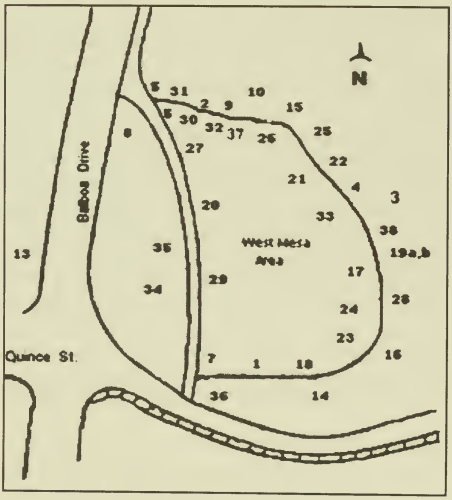
"Throughout history, every culture has turned to plants for nutritional and medicinal needs. Even in this technological age, scientists and natural healers alike explore the botanical world for medicinal solutions. This garden will allow Balboa Park visitors to understand the history of traditional medicine throughout the world and develop an appreciation for healing plants in the future." *Kathy Puplava, Balboa Park Horticulturist*

The purpose of this educational garden is to promote a better understanding of the value and uses of medicinal plants, both throughout our history and in our future. It develops public appreciation of local and global conservation through interpretation and by maintaining a living collection of plants for public display and study.

Trees for Health Garden Enhancement Project

Most of the trees in this medicinal garden are in West Mesa Area off Balboa Drive, just north of Quince St. near 6th Ave. Three are in Redwood Circle just south of the garden. Many mature trees described below may be found elsewhere in Balboa Park.

Post #	Alphabetical Order of Common Name
8	African Sausage Tree
35	African Tulip Tree
38	African Walnut
17	Allspice
19a	Black Walnut
14	Blue Gum
27	California Bay
32	California Buckeye
19	California Walnut
4	Camphor
31	Chaste Tree
22	Chinese Jujube
23	Cinnamon
11	Coast Live Oak
37	Coffee Berry
1	Desert Willow
24	Feathery Cassia
30	Fringe Tree
28	Globe Willow
25	Happy Tree
33	Honey Locust
18	Honey Mesquite
5	Juniper chinensis
21	Lemonadeberry
26	Lombardy Poplar
13	Magnolia
6	Maidenhair Tree



10	Moreton Bay Chestnut
3	Olive
2	Pau D'arco
20	Pecan
7	Pomegranate
29	Princess Tree
15	Silk Tree
12	Sweet Gum
9	Tea Tree
34	Tulip Tree
16	White Mulberry
36	White Popinac

1 DESERT WILLOW *(Chilopsis linearis)* Bignoniaceae.
Deciduous, height 25′, spread 15′, flowers are orchid-like, in clusters, purple to pink to white, shaggy bark when mature. Native to the Southwest. Drought tolerant when established. Leaves and bark used for fungal infections or a skin dressing for abrasions.

1. Desert Willow

2 PAU D'ARCO (*Tabebuia impetiginosa*) Bignoniaceae. Briefly deciduous, height 25-30′, trumpet shaped lavender flowers 2-4′ long and rounded clusters, blooming in late winter. The inner bark used for inflammatory diseases, chronic degenerative diseases, cancers, tumors, ulcers, cysts, and fungal infections.

2. Pau D'arco

3 OLIVE *(Olea europaea)*
Oleaceae. Evergreen, height 25′ to 30′, willowlike, gray-green foliage, gnarled trunk. Thrives in full sun in hot dry climates. The inedible fruit blackens and drops in late fall. Fruit processed to make olive oil. The oil is used as a laxative and liniment. Leaves are used as antiseptic and also for fever and hypertension.

4 CAMPHOR TREE (*Cinnamomum camphora*) Lauraceae.
Evergreen, height 60′, spread 80′. Leaves shiny, yellow-green through winter and in spring become forest green with flushes of pink, red, or bronze. Camphor oil is analgesic and antiseptic. The fragrant insect-repelling wood is highly esteemed for cabinets and wardrobe chests.

5 CHINESE JUNIPER (*Juniperus* x *media 'Sea Green'*) Cupressaceae. Evergreen , 4-6′ and to 6′ wide. Compact shrub with an arching habit. Dark green foliage. Somewhat drought and city air pollutants tolerant. Bark is eaten for internal pain. A decoction of the root and bark is taken as a contraceptive, ecbolic, depilatory, or enagogue (aid in menstrual flow).

6 MAIDENHAIR TREE *(Ginkgo biloba)* Ginkgoaceae Deciduous, height 55-75′ spread 20-30′ Fan-shaped leaves turn golden-yellow in fall. Native to northern China. Leaves and seeds used in Chinese medicine for lung problems. It treats heart and kidney disorders, and promotes the flow of blood to the brain increasing mental alertness.

7 DWARF POMEGRANATE (*Punica granatum 'Nana'*) Punicaceae. Briefly deciduous, height 10-25′, orange flowers, orange fruit that develops in late summer, early fall. Native to southern Asia. Root bark, fruit rind, juice and seeds are used as a bittersweet astringent herb that destroys intestinal parasites. It is also an antiviral and controls diarrhea.

8 AFRICAN SAUSAGE TREE (*Kigelia pinnata*) Bignoniaceae. Deciduous, height 40′, panicles of nocturnal, bell-shaped, scented, deep red flowers which become bean pod-shaped, woody brown fruits on 3′ stalks. Bark used for rheumatism, wounds and sores and the leaves for dysentery. The bark and leaves also treat kidney trouble.

9 TEA TREE (*Melaleuca alternifolia*) Myrtaceae. Evergreen, height 15-22′, papery bark, dense spikes of white flowers followed by woody capsules. Native to New South Wales and Queensland. Oil extracted from leaves is an antiseptic and immuno-stimulant active against bacteria and viruses.

10 MORETON BAY CHESTNUT (*Castanospermum australe*) Fabaceae. Evergreen, 50-60′ tall and nearly as wide. Native to Australia. Glossy leaves and rough bark. In spring masses of yellow, orange and red flowers are followed by long pods. The seeds are now being tested for use in treating the HIV virus. Aborigines used seeds to make a coarse meal.

11 COAST LIVE OAK *(Quercus agrifolia)* Fagaceae. Evergreen, height 100′, flowers are catkins followed by slender pointed acorns. Native to Southern California and northern Baja California. The inner bark is used as an astringent for gum inflammations, a gargle for sore throats and as an intestinal tonic.

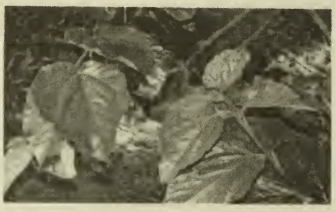
12 SWEET GUM *(Liquidambar styraciflua)* Hamamelidaceae. Deciduous, height 60′, 25′ spread, leaves palmately lobed and 5-6′′ wide, turning purple, yellow or red in fall, furrowed bark. Native to eastern U.S. The sap has antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties, and is also used as an expectorant.

13 MAGNOLIA *(Magnolia grandiflora)* Magnoliaceae. Evergreen, height 80′, glossy, leathery leaves with rusty-brown tomentum on the undersides. Fragrant flowers white, aging to buff, bloom in summer and fall. Native to south-eastern U.S. Bark is harvested when the tree is 20-30 years old and used for stimulant and tonic properties.

14 BLUE GUM *(Eucalyptus globulus)* Myrtaceae. Evergreen, 10-200′ aromatic leaves are bluish-green, small white flowers, papery bark. The essential oil and its active ingredient eucalyptol are found in over-the-counter cough drops and salves. The oil is used in steam inhalation for colds and flu and vapor rubs.

15 SILK TREE *(Albizia julibrissin)* Fabaceae. Deciduous, height 10-15′, canopy 20′ wide, flowers pink, pinnate leaves are light-sensitive and fold in at night, papery seed pods. Native to Asia. Bark and flowers used as astringent, sedative, diuretic and analgesic. The bark is also an appetite stimulant.

16 WHITE MULBERRY (*Morus alba*) Moraceae. Deciduous, height 20-60′, flowers are inconspicuous followed by fruit. Native to China. Fruit, stem, root bark and leaves are used medicinally. Leaves are used for colds, coughs, asthma; stems are used for hypertension; root bark is used for diabetes; and fruit for incontinence and constipation.



17 ALLSPICE (*Pimenta dioica*) Myrtaceae. Evergreen, height 40′, leathery, oblong leaves, small white flowers followed by summer berries. Native to Central America and Caribbean. Berries used to treat indigestion, flatulence and diabetes. Oil of the berries contains the chemical eugenol used by dentists as a local anesthetic.

continued on page 21

Now Is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Barbara Conrad

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BRUSH leaves with a soft brush to remove dust.

TO WASH plants if needed. Try putting tin foil under lowest leaves and around pot. Lean plant under warm water at sink. Use a brush or gently rub leaves with fingers. Dry droplets of water, particularly in centers of plants, using a paper towel to remove moisture.

TO REFRAIN from placing violets in direct sunlight until completely dry to avoid burning leaves resulting in spotty discoloration.

TO AVOID placing plants in cold or drafty areas, which could stunt growth.

TO PLACE violets where morning sun comes into an area where there is some air circulation to promote growth and avoid mildew.

TO ROTATE plants a quarter turn weekly to maintain symmetry in leaves.

TO ENJOY the beauty violets bring into our world.

BEGONIAS
American Begonia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH the watering program; slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.

TO KEEP plants clean; remove dead leaves and old foliage.

TO START cutting back cane-type and shrub-like types.

TO ADD more planting mix as needed to keep roots covered.

TO SPRAY for mildew.

TO CONTROL slugs, snails, mealybugs, and loopers.

TO START, in February, tuberous types for summer blooms.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO COLLECT native stock in the California region, where permitted. Plant the native trees in a larger container, not a bonsai pot.

TO GRAFT conifers, deciduous, and evergreen trees.

TO USE lime-sulfur spray on deciduous trees.

TO REDUCE watering if a rainy period.

TO PRUNE fruit-bearing bonsai.

TO WATCH for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

TO REMEMBER NOT to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.

TO START in February to repot and transplant some varieties if weather is favorable.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth, or any other suitable material.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures; keep at least 2 inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

TO BE careful when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

TO EMPTY water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, affecting the compact form.

TO CUT the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

TO NOT fertilize until weather begins to warm.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMEMBER to rest winter-dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold—water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.

TO PROTECT outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

TO WATCH new cuttings—they may not root quickly. If you can supply bottom heat you should not

have much of a problem.

TO KEEP an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings—use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

TO CLEAN up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

TO NOTE those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK out nurseries that sell natives. Las Pilitas in Escondido has many fine native plants and knowledgeable staff.

TO FINISH planting wildflower seeds. You might consider planting a meadow. If you get it through the first season, you will have repeat blooms each year that we get enough rainfall. You may let it grow naturally amongst the weeds and grass.

TO CHECK for insects and snails around your plants. Remember to weed around your newly planted shrubs and perennials. Natives compete poorly with weeds for vital nutrients.

TO SUPPLEMENT the winter rains with deep, infrequent watering. Remember the key to a drought-tolerant plant is to have the roots go deep. The roots grow during the late fall and winter on most natives. The tops grow during the warmer part of the year.

TO KEEP the area around your natives free of debris that may harbor pests and diseases.

CAMELLIAS

Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BUY plants in bloom. Some plants that do well in San Diego are; **Red**: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Kraemer's Supreme', 'Rudolph', 'Nuccio's Bella Rosa'; **Pink**: 'Tiffany', 'Elsie Jury', 'Al Gunn', 'Debutante', 'Valentine Day'; **White**: 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Scentuous' (fragrant), 'Tata'; **Variegated**: 'Emma Gaeta Variegated', 'Adolphe Audusson Special', 'Dixie Knight Supreme', 'Rudolph Variegated'; **Multi-colored**: 'Margaret Davis'.

TO PLANT or transplant camellias. Do not transplant camellias when out of bloom. Most camellias prefer part shade — a northern or eastern exposure. If south or west exposure is required, they should be provided about 50% shade by some means. Varieties of sasanqua and vernalis can take nearly full sun.

TO CONTINUE feeding in January with a low nitrogen fertilizer (0-10-10 or 2-10-10) and iron. Adding gypsum can help to prevent tip burn on leaves.

TO CONTINUE to disbud if larger but fewer blooms are desired.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DIG any tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

TO STORE tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

TO INSPECT those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

TO START in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus, and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

TO SPROUT some selected roots in February—these make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

EPIPHYLLUMS

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO TAKE advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

TO PROTECT plants from unexpected frost and strong wintery winds.

TO BAIT for snails and slugs.

TO SPRAY insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oil-base types. Use Orthene, malathion, and Cygon available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

TO PRUNE out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

TO FEED mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids, especially maidenhair.

TO WATER gently, but do not soak. On cool nights soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants—they may remain dry.

TO TRIM off old fronds in frost free areas.

TO FERTILIZE *Platyceriums* (stag horns) with bone meal, hoof & horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

TO REMOVE and remount *Platycerium* pups.

TO PLANT spores.

TO CHECK for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites are very small and may not be seen. Fronds will be silvery on top and start to turn brown. Spray with malathion or miticide.

TO REPOT, rebasket, and divide ferns in frost free areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FINISH pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

TO PRUNE evergreens just before or when new growth begins.

TO SPRAY dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

TO SPRAY dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.

TO PLANT dormant bare-root trees and vines.

TO PAINT the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.

TO PROVIDE frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.

TO CLEAN up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots, and around ground plants.

TO SPRAY remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.

TO KEEP plants moist but not wet.

TO FEED with a good fertilizer—fish (10-5-5) or a slow release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.

TO USE insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BREATHE in deeply the fragrance of your herb garden, during or after a winter rain.

TO PLANT seeds of winter-flowering herbs — calendula, borage, nasturtium.

TO PRUNE back winter deciduous shrubs and trees — ginkgo, vitex, lemon verbena.

TO WEED around and give space to any struggling herbs.

TO AMEND the soil throughout the garden.

TO BREW fresh tea with your backyard herbs — mints, dandelion, thyme, sage.

TO APPRECIATE and use our native herbs — black sage, white sage, sagebrush, yerba santa.

TO BAKE a fresh loaf of rosemary-flavored bread.

IRIS

San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old brown fans off the tall bearded. Good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

TO MAKE last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.

TO WATCH watering, if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.

TO START a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.

TO START in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do not over fertilize.

ORCHIDS

Charley Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK the moisture in pots of outdoor-growing orchids including *Cymbidiums* under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.

TO CONTINUE to stake new spikes on *Phalaenopsis* and *Cymbidiums*. Do not rotate plant once spike has started.

TO FEED with a low-nitrogen-high-phosphorus fertilizer on *Cymbidiums* and an even 18-18-18 on *Phalaenopsis*, *Vandas*, and *Ascocentrums*. Remember, when the days are over 75 degrees these plants are active and some in the vandacious alliance are very heavy feeders.

TO KEEP nobile-type *Dendrobiums* on the dry side through the winter. When the buds start to swell in the spring, then you can resume a normal water and fertilizer sequence.

TO MAINTAIN antelope type *Dendrobiums* (evergreen) like *Phalaenopsis*. They require warmth. The flower spikes will come from the top leaf axils most of the time.

TO WATER early in the morning so the plants will be dry by nightfall.

TO REMEMBER the fertilizer requirements of orchids are minuscule compared to other branches of the plant kingdom. Trace minerals such as calcium, magnesium (Epsom Salts), copper, and boron can benefit most orchids. These can be found in the complete fertilizers available at local nurseries. It is often more useful to feed quarter-strength at each watering as it makes nutrients available up to five times more often.

TO WATCH for little creepy crawlies. Slugs, snails, scale, mealy bug, whitefly, etc. These may show activity on warm days. Contact your local orchid nursery for the latest and safest pest deterrent.

TO ALWAYS be aware of possible weather changes that would conflict with your successful orchid growing.

PELARGONIUMS

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Relocate potted plants if there is prolonged rain.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a complete fertilizer. If soilless mix is used, a fertilizer with micronutrients is needed. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to avoid nutrient deficiencies.

TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention programs. Use all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO PRUNE any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scenteds, and similar types. Lanky plants that were previously pruned can be cut back again to produce compact plants. Tip pinch plants that were pruned in the fall.

TO MAKE cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather. Placing them in a warm location will produce roots more rapidly.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing. Temporary coverings may be used.

TO CONTINUE to rotate plants to keep them well shaped.

PLUMERIA

Southern California Plumeria Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE for spring start up.

TO MOVE your *Plumeria* to a full-sun area after the last frost.

TO BEGIN watering moderately until leaf development begins (1-2 inches). Do not use catch basins under your pots.

TO WATER and feed when leaves are 2-3 inches long with a low-nitrogen fertilizer such as a 6-10-10.

TO TAKE cuttings before leaf development. Wait until April to plant.

TO TRANSPLANT using a well-drained soil mix.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a complete calendar of procedures you follow in preparing/maintaining/feeding your roses. The work you do now is the basis of your success or failure in the rose garden.

TO STRIP any foliage remaining on your bushes and rake and clean up the beds. If you have given your bushes dormant spray in late December, you will be wise to repeat it, weather permitting. This will do a lot to prevent overwintering spores of mildew and rust. Roses grown away from other plants are easier to maintain as they require a regular routine of feeding, watering, and cleanliness. Many problems can be controlled by hosing them off early in the morning.

TO PLANT new bushes in holes you prepared earlier. If planting a new rose as a replacement, you will be well advised to supplement the planting mix with soil taken from another area of the garden, along with superphosphate at the bottom of the hole. If the weather is hot and dry, mound soil or mulch up around the canes and keep damp with frequent sprinkling.

TO PRUNE established hybrid teas mid-January through Valentine's Day. Attend the demonstrations of your local garden clubs held in municipal rose gardens to observe pruning practices and share information with participating members.

TO FEED new plants with liquid fertilizer when bushes have a full set of leaves. These new bushes may be the first to bloom and after verifying you have the correct plant, break off the bloom leaving the new growth intact.

TO APPLY rose food to established bushes in early February. A cup of alfalfa meal or pellets worked into the drip basin will help get your bushes off to a good

start. Frequent small feedings will produce continuous blooms and beautiful roses throughout the year.

TO MAINTAIN moisture level at all times by filling your water basins at least twice a week.

TO WATCH for the first signs of aphids on the new growth and knock them off with a strong stream of water from the hose. They are lazy and will take a few days to climb back up.

TO CONTROL mildew by washing off foliage in the early morning or spray weekly with a fungicide.

TO FINGER PRUNE when multiple buds break on the canes, leaving only the strongest to promote strong growth.

TO MAINTAIN a clear area around your bushes to discourage rust fungus, which will show up on the undersides of the leaves when present. Keep infected leaves picked off and dispose of in closed containers.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE ROSES!

If you missed the presentations provided at various sites where volunteers demonstrate recommended pruning practices, you may wish to visit after the event to observe the result.

Roses grown here in Southern California achieve bushes of a size that is unusual and unknown to many new residents from other areas where winter weather destroys many bushes and replacement yearly is required. Hard to imagine, when here many rosarians have grown the same bushes for twenty-five to thirty years.

Pruning will help keep the plant under control. Many roses will become extremely large if allowed unlimited growth. Pruning will renew the growth and result in abundant bloom. The best growth comes from basal growth—that new cane that came directly from the graft union. Because our roses seldom go naturally dormant here, pruning and defoliation provide a shock to spur the process and give the plant the natural rest it needs.

The usual rule of thumb is to remove ⅓ to ½ of the growth of an established bush. If you have a bush that is only one year old and did not grow a lot, you may want to prune it only lightly or even not at all.

Suckers, growth from below the bud union, must be removed clean to the bud union. This is probably the rule most ignored by new rosarians. This will produce blooms unlike the ones you want and if left on the bush will frequently take over—resulting in bushes that once produced pink or yellow flowers producing red blooms.

Lack of rainfall during the past year should encourage you to deep water your bushes (beds) several times during this period of rest to cleanse the beds of salt build-up that occurs during the growing period. Such soil amendments as superphosphate, iron, epsom salts, and gypsum may be added at this time. Wait a few weeks until new growth is actually started before adding rose foods.

I avoid products that profess to curtail pests along with giving nutrients to the bush. Ammonium sulfate is great—for keeping your lawns green!

Remember—there is no RIGHT way to grow roses! If what you are doing is working for you—do not change!

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga, and turnip.

TO USE floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerate their growth.

TO PLANT dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus, and rhubarb.

TO PLANT seeds of medium-day-length onions such as 'White Sweet Spanish', 'Stockton Yellow Globe', and 'Italian Red' (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

TO ORDER seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

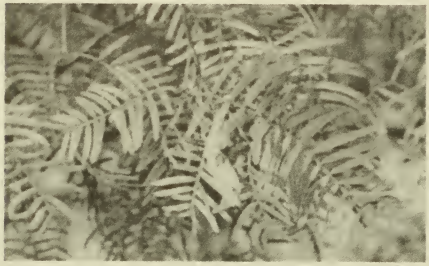
TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce — Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*), cineraria, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), pansy, pink sand verbena, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beet, carrot, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnip, spinach, and turnip — baby blue eyes, candytuft, China asters, Chinese forget-me-not, coleus, delphinium, dianthus, forget-me-not, hollyhock, impatiens, lobelia, petunia, poppies, scabiosa, sweet alyssum, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).

Antonelli Brothers
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS
2545 Capitola Road
Santa Cruz, California 95062
18-page Catalog $1.00

continued from page 15

18 HONEY MESQUITE *(Prosopis julifera)* Fabaceae. Deciduous, height 15 to 20.′ Native to the San Joaquin Valley and desert. Beans high in protein, carbohydrates, calcium and soluble fiber are used for both food and medicine. Sap, shoots, leaves and bark used as an astringent and antimicrobial. Tea used as a cleaning wash for injuries.



19A CALIFORNIA WALNUT (*Juglans californica*)

Juglandaceae. Evergreen, height 15-30′, several trunks branching near the base. Catkins in spring, fruit in fall. California native. Nuts are covered with a tough brown husk which produces a stain when handling. They help with constipation and reduce cholesterol. Crushed leaves repel insects.

19B BLACK WALNUT (*Juglans nigra)* Juglandaceae. Deciduous, 100′ tall x 70′ wide. Inconspicuous flowers in spring and edible nuts in late summer and fall. Hulls of nuts used for dye and the bark for fungal infections, digestive disorders and laxative.

20 PECAN (*Carya illinoensis*) Juglandaceae. Deciduous, height 70′ and as wide. Inconspicuous flowers in spring and edible nuts in late summer and fall. Native to south-central United States and northeastern Mexico. The hulls of the nuts are used to make dyes of brown and dark gray. The bark is used as a tonic, laxative, and salve.

21 LEMONADEBERRY *(Rhus integrifolia)* Anacardiaceae. Evergreen, height 3-10′. Flat leathery aromatic leaves, small pink flowers in winter and flattened, reddish fruit spring through fall. Native to California. The Cahuilla Indians made a tea from the leaves to treat coughs and colds. Berries can be used to make a lemonade type drink.

Scientific names used in above were taken from *The Herb Society of American Encyclopedia of Herbs & Their Uses* by Deni Bown, and *Eyewitness Handbooks, Herbs* by Lesley Bremness.

This is the first of a two-part article revision of the brochure entitled *Self-Guided Walk Trees for Health Enhancement Project,* Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 1998-2004, with permission from the editors. The brochure is available at the kiosk on the walk. Photography by Paul Lovick. San Diego Floral Association is not advising use of herbal remedies without professional medical consultation. They are listed for your entertainment.

TREES FOR HEALTH GARDEN CEREMONY

BY BARBARA CAREY

RAIN ON THE EVE of November first, what a blessing for the Trees for Health Garden at Balboa Park's West Mesa!

The project's culmination ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. at the new kiosk, where chairs and tables awaited invited guests, sponsor members, and officers of The Herb Club and the Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park.

Begun in 1998 with the planting of fifteen trees, the project has evolved and grown to include thirty-eight trees. Many of the original committee and seminar speakers were present to see the contributions by the Boy Scouts of America of the kiosk and garden path additions.

In 2003 California ReLeaf granted a $5,500.00 amount to enhance the original project to study medicinal trees by adding identification posts and tags for the trees and to update the brochure. Our committee members have met with Kathy Puplava and John Mellein, Park Horticulturists, during the year for adding trees, tree identification, and care. The Balboa Park nursery is the holding area for many of the project's young trees. The West Mesa area has become the project center with nearly all the Trees for Health collection located north of Quince Street at Balboa Drive.

Many guests walked the garden path additions and viewed the trees with their shiny ID tags on redwood posts. The numbers on the posts correspond to the numbers in the brochure available at the kiosk. The brochure gives a brief description of medicinal values of each of the thirty-eight trees, and maps to the location are included. Anyone can learn about the trees by a self-guided walk.

The ceremony opened a wonderful resource for herbal and tree study groups, as well as school field trips to learn about these special trees.

[Those involved in this project were Cynthia Drake, Carol Wofford, Thomas A. Garran, Naomi Steinm, John Noble, Mary Botticelli, Lary Beezley, Carole Brown, Jane Dumas, Pat Regan, Luna Rose, Shannon Player, Jillian Belding, Judy Dunning, Charlotte Tenney, Kathy Puplava, Sue Fouquette, John Mellein, Carole Rukstelisin, Fern Wilson, Barbara Carey, Paul Lovick, Lynn Dielman, Daniel Holliday, Spencer Oliphant, Boy Scouts of America Troop #504, California ReLeaf, National Tree Trust, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Quail Gardens, Roadrunner Tree Farm, City of San Diego and Friends of the Park Foundation, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Grounds Maintenance, Park Nursery and Park Ranger Staff, the Herb Club of San Diego, City Farmers Nursery, San Diego Natural History Museum Botany Department, and the Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park. Please let us know if you were left out. *Editor*]

Barbara Carey is one of the editors of the Trees for Health Garden brochure. Photograph by the author.

At the new kiosk, Charlotte Tenney, Mistress of Ceremonies — Kathy Puplava, Park Horticulturist, and a big check.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC

is hosting its:

ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION

DATE: Saturday, January 24, 2004
TIME: 12 noon - 4:00 PM
PLACE: Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St, Carlsbad
INFO: (760) 753-6952

- Great selection and prices
- Lots of orchids
- Blooming orchid plants
- Refreshments

SAVING WATER IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

BY LUIS GENEROSO

DID YOU KNOW the answer to reducing your water use and decreasing your utility bills is right at your fingertips? The Water Conservation Hotline at 619-515-3500, offers information on free City of San Diego Water Department programs that can help you save water at home and at work. The hotline provides callers with several educational and interactive resources that promote water conservation, and also offers assistance with basic customer account information and the reporting of water waste.

"Our trained, professional hotline staff is ready and waiting to give the public resourceful tools to help them use water wisely," said Chris Robbins, Supervising Management Analyst for the City's Water Conservation Program. "We're happy to offer this free service to the community, and hope more people will take advantage of it."

The hotline provides callers with the option to listen to program information in either English or Spanish. Upon selecting the language of choice, the caller can then directly dial 4 to listen to information on the following water conservation and recycled water programs:

Ultra Low-Flush Toilet Voucher Program: Residential customers can find out if they are eligible to receive a voucher for up to $75.00 toward the purchase of an ultra-low flush toilet.

High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Voucher Program: Residential customers can find out if they are eligible to receive a voucher for up to $125.00 toward the purchase of a high-efficiency clothes washing machine.

Residential Water Survey program: Qualified residential customers can sign up to have a water conservation representative evaluate their home water usage, inside and outside, to identify leaks, and suggest water-saving opportunities.

Guaranteed Water Program: This program exempts research and development or industrial manufacturing firms from mandatory water restrictions in times of drought in exchange for their participation in daily water conservation programs, including the use of recycled water.

Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Water Conservation Survey Program: This program offers assistance to businesses, production plants, hospitals, and non-residential facilities, by analyzing water use and recommending water conservation measures.

Water Conservation Municipal Code: This policy requires all buildings to be certified under the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) 147.04 as having water conserving plumbing fixtures in place prior to change of ownership or bathroom remodeling.

Commercial Landscape Survey Program: Qualified properties receive an assessment of their irrigation system, practical advice, water saving recommendations, and a water-use budget.

Landscape Watering Calculator: An online tool that creates a customized watering schedule for your sprinkler system estimating the correct amount and duration of water for your landscape or garden.

Report Water Waste: Customers who observe water waste are encouraged to report this information to the Water Conservation Hotline. Callers can remain anonymous. Reports are followed-up with notification to property owners regarding where water waste was noticed, and recommendations on programs and tools that can help them save water. With help from a water-conscious community, the Water Department can achieve significant water savings and avoid water lost through wasteful practices.

A wealth of information on saving water is just a phone call away. We look forward to your call!

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619-515-3500. □

Luis Generosa is Water Resources Manager for the City of San Diego.

HISTORIC ROSECROFT - OCTOBER 26, 2003

We thank Walter Andersen Nursery of Poway for their generous sponsorship donation.

San Diego Floral Association extends a very special thank you to Scott and Mary Kelly Clifton for opening their home for this event.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS, BUSINESSES, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATED TIME, SILENT AUCTION ITEMS, FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND MONEY TO OUR FUNDRAISING EVENT.

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Coastal Sage Gardening
Green Gardens Nursery
In Harmony Herbs & Spices
Jungle Java
Mission Hills Nursery
Walter Andersen Nursery

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
CRAFT and FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES
CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK
9:30AM to 2:00PM
Bring a lunch, coffee and sweets provided
Register with San Diego Floral Association office, 619/232-5762, Call MARIE WALSH 619/298-5182 for more information.
PLEASE PREREGISTER!
ENROLLMENT LIMITED

GET TOGETHER AND FINISH ANY OLD BASKET WORKSHOP
Tuesday, 3 February 2004
Instructor: Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh
Bring bucket and appropriate tools. Additional materials will be available at extra cost.
FEE: $5.00

BASKETRY CLASS
Tuesday 10 February 2004
Instructor: Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh
Make a large natural basket. Materials supplied. Bring bucket, tools (awl and clippers), and six clothespins.
FEE: $35 SDFA members, $40 nonmembers

THREE FLOWER ARRANGING DAYS
Tuesday, 17 & 24 February, 2 March 2004
Instructor: Velma West
Bring your own flowers. Additional flowers may be ordered in advance through Marie Walsh at 619-298-5182.
FEE: $25 per class or $50 for the series
17 February: Patriotic Arrangement, Bring red, white, and blue flowers and a coordinating container.
24 February: Fruits and vegetables enhanced by flowers. Bring container and materials, including wire and floral tape.
2 March: Underwater Floral arrangement. Bring any glass container and flowers.

CLASSES WANTED
DATE
AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ . . . . . .
Make check payable to San Diego Floral Association. SEND TO:
San Diego Floral Assoc., 1650 El Prado, #105,
San Diego CA 92101-1622

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS
CITY, ZIP

2004 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR

BY THE PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION

THE PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION has named *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum' the 2004 Perennial Plant of the year. This perennial low-maintenance Japanese painted fern is one of the showiest ferns for shade gardens. It grows to 18 inches tall and as it multiplies can make a clump that is more than 2 feet wide. 'Pictum' produces 12- to 18-inch fronds that are a soft shade of metallic silver-gray with hints of red and blue. Each frond looks as though it had been meticulously painted in shades of green, gray, and burgundy. The wine-red stems bleed over into the silvery-green fronds. [*Sunset Western Garden Book* gives it the common name Japanese painted fern and offers 1-9, 14-24 as its recommended zones.]

This fern provides a nice contrast to other shade-loving perennials such as hosta, bleeding heart, columbine, astilbe, and coral bells. A friendly companion plant for the Japanese painted fern is *Tiarella* (foam flower) [some species not suited to *Sunset* zone 22-24]. A unique possibility is to use this fern with sedges. *Carex* (sedges) are shade-loving, easy-to-grow, grasslike plants. Try *Carex morrowii* 'Variegated' or *Carex siderosticha* 'Silver Sceptre'. Other selections that are excellent companions to Japanese painted fern include *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Langtrees', 'Silver Wings', or 'Jack Frost'; *Lamium maculatum* 'Orchid Frost' and 'Purple Dragon'; *Astilbe* 'Snowdrift'; *Astilbe simplicifolia* 'Sprite'; and *Dicentra* 'King of Hearts'. Use these selections with white flowers or variegated leaves to echo or pick other colors for contrast. Almost any plant will make a great counterpart to the graceful, attractive, and versatile *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'.

This fern needs a well-drained, compost-rich soil and flourishes where moisture and humidity abound. Add 2-3 inches of compost or peat moss to the beds each spring or fall. Its colorful foliage should be vibrant from early spring until frost, when it will go dormant and reemerge with its excellent foliage the next spring.

Robin Halley, president of the San Diego Fern Society, thinks this is an excellent plant — which he grows in dappled shade. □

RE-VEGETATION FUND FIRESTORM 2003

The San Diego Floral Association Board has voted to establish a fund account to help fire victims. The funds received may be designated for purchasing plant materials or may be used to help provide educational matter that not only details fire prevention landscaping but describes proper re-vegetation technics. Resources are already being compiled and programs to address the issues are being planned.

SDFA board member John Allen, of Pascua Farms and Rancho Jojoba Nursery, has offered the nursery as a distribution point for the plant materials.

Donations are tax-deductible and should be labeled Firestorm 2003 Re-vegetation Fund and sent to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101.

If you know of any proven safety tips concerning fire preventive plants or tecniques, please relay them by mail or e-mail to the editor at editor@sdfloral.org.

WHEN YOU PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS, PLEASE LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU FOUND THEM IN
CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE

Book Reviews

ORNAMENTAL TREES OF SAN DIEGO; Mediterranean Climate Trees for the Garden
Steve Brigham, Photography by Don Walker
Encinitas, San Diego Horticultural Society, Ibis Publishing Company, 2003, 136 pages, 230 color photos, 8½" x 11", hardcover, $34.95. May be purchased at Walter Andersen Nursery in Point Loma and Poway, all Armstrong Garden centers, San Diego Natural History Museum, Quail Botanical Gardens or ordered online www.sdhortsoc.org.

Tree lovers in San Diego feel very fortunate to have another book on trees with all photos taken locally. Two years ago the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department published *Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park* by Kathy Puplava. Now this book has even more complete coverage with two hundred-thirty trees included compared with the one hundred-six in the Balboa Park book.

The photos are outstanding and show evidence of much thought in picking particular specimens. Photos are taken from residences in Oceanside and Vista to the north to Coronado and Chula Vista in the south including communities in between, and Presidio and Balboa Parks, Quail Botanic Gardens. Pictures of trees as street trees or in front of residences gives an idea of how it will look in your yard for those shopping for tree ideas. Almost all the photos have close-ups of flower, bark, fruit, berries, or leaves.

The text is written with the gardener in mind: which tree does well in coastal areas versus inland, drought tolerant versus regular watering, rich soil versus poor, and fast growing versus slow growing.

For those, like myself, who use their books as an identification guide it's an opportunity for learning. The inclusion of a pronunciation guide is another plus. I could recognize a few of the Pacific Beach photos without reading the label, but was very grateful to find that the large conifer at the Pacific Beach Methodist Church was *Cedrus deodara*, it's so perfectly shaped that I never was quite sure what it was.

The color chart for flowering trees in the back of the book is very well designed, showing color of bloom and month of bloom, size (small, medium or large) evergreen or deciduous, and best growing location (coast, inland, mountain, or desert) all on one line making it a very easy reference. It's followed by Balboa Park and Quail Botanical Gardens location guides. For Balboa Park each garden area is listed cross-referencing the garden area shown with the text. For Quail, each garden area is listed with each specific tree reference for that area. It gives the impression that Quail has more of these trees than Balboa Park, but this is misleading. Balboa Park actually has more than Quail. One hundred-sixty trees are found in both places, thirty-five are found only in Balboa park, twenty-four found only at Quail and ten found in neither of these public spaces. Probably the thought was that time-wise a trip to Quail Botanical Gardens would be more profitable with not so much walking to find all the trees.

This book will become indispensable for San Diego landscapers, gardeners, and those interested in learning more about their local environment.

Reviewed by R. Cox

BROMELIADS FOR THE CONTEMPORARY GARDEN
Andrew Steens
Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 198 pages, 290 color photos, 8½" x 10¼", hardcover, $29.95

Bromeliads (common name for the Bromelia genus) were known to the Incas, Aztecs, and Mayas, who used them for decoration in much the same way as gardeners do today. The pineapple, *Ananas comosus*, was the first of the bromeliad family to capture the interest of Europeans nearly five hundred years ago. But by the late nineteenth century, plants of many species were being hybridized in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. The rest is garden history, as landscapers today use them in all types of designs.

From shade to sun, there is a wide variety of situations suitable for growing bromeliads and this book is very generous with descriptions and color photos showing the exotic beauty of these unusual plants. Directions for planting and nurturing them in all kinds of conditions should inspire even the most timid novice gardener to give them a try.

Most of the book is devoted to a compendium of the many genera found in this very large and diverse family. Photos of most species accompany the descriptions so that a general idea of the plants' appearance is easily perceived. The final section is devoted to specifics of cultivation: light conditions, temperatures, and feeding, plus flowering times, soil types, and the necessary bad news about pests, diseases, and disorders. Tips on the purchasing of bromeliads are prologue to a detailed description of propagating whether by seed or offshoot. The author has even included the names and websites of bromeliad societies for the reader's further information.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE CHANGING GARDEN: Four Centuries of European and American Art
Betsy G. Fryberger with essays by Paula Dietz, Elizabeth S. Eustis, Diana Ketchum, Claudia Lazzaro, and Carol M. Osborne
Berkeley, University of California Press and Iris and B. Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, 2003, 239 pages, 166 photos (130 of these from Exhibition catalog), 8½" x 11", softcover, $34.95

Once the symbol of the power and glory of a king, gardens have historically reflected the culture of their times. This beautifully organized volume presents artistic expressions

inspired in and by gardens, from the lavish estates of the sixteenth century to today's public parks. Designed to accompany an exhibit on the history of garden design at Stanford University, it includes many early prints, paintings, and photos that clearly illustrate the changing aesthetics and uses of gardens through the years.

The sixteenth century gardens designed to present an ideally ordered world to promote the image of royalty are described and depicted in prints of formal gardens complete with strolling visitors and gardeners at work. Most are parterred, hedged, and fountained in the familiar style of Versailles or the Medici Villas, but one old print presents a huge old oak that has been embellished with a winding stairway and dining platform.

Private gardens began to appear in the late eighteenth century at a time when artists were seeking more naturalistic settings for their subjects of people enjoying their usual pursuits. A century later, city parks and private gardens became a subject in themselves, as *plein air* painters focused on light and texture in the out-of-doors. Coming up to contemporary times, the process of reclaiming land...old airports, garbage dumps, etc. for public places introduces new design concepts.

The essays covering these topics are a prelude to the exhibit catalogue itself, which is included here. The exhibit is organized around various elements of garden design: such as landscape design, textures, water, statuary, etc. Prints, paintings, and photos provide a wealth of illustration in this section and in the following ones focusing on historic gardens and garden gatherings.

Even with nary a plant mention in sight, gardeners will sense in this book a rich tradition of garden history and art to be proud to be a part of.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE WATER GARDEN ENCYCLOPEDIA
Philip Swindells

Buffalo, Firefly Books Ltd., 2003, 256 pages, 400 color photos, 10¼" x 11¼", softcover, $29.95

With ready-made fountains taking up more and more space at local nurseries, it's plain to see that water features are the newest trend in garden styles. Easy as it may be to buy one and plug it in, this handsome volume may well inspire you to do something a lot more creative.

Absolutely everything you need to know is here, in print and picture, from deciding what kind of water garden to have, how to site it (and where NOT to site it!), to how to settle it into the garden with plants in and around it. The author shows all the options, from pre-formed pools and cascades, plumbing and pumps, and basic construction, to the huge variety of water features that can be selected. For those not ready to commit to something serious, he presents many ideas for using tugs and barrels, some with small fountains, others simply planted or just filled with rocks.

Larger more formal pools are shown in a variety of shapes and materials. Complete instructions are provided for achieving the desired effect. Following chapters on natural-looking ponds and waterfalls, the use of vinyl lining and various pool edgings gives the reader plenty to consider. Nearly last but not least is a chapter on plant choices and decorative touches to complete the home water garden.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

DAHLIAS: A Color Guide
Ted Collins

North Pomfret, Vt., Crowood Press distributed by Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2003, 238 pages, photos, 6¾" x 9½", hardcover, $40

Named in honor of Swedish botanist Andreas Dahl in the late eighteenth century, dahlias originated in Mexico and Guatemala. They were brought to Europe by a Spaniard sent to the New World to find a rival for the potato. The wife of the British ambassador to Spain sent seeds to Kew Gardens, and other seeds found their way to France and Germany. Several types were developed and named in various places. Since 1836, when the first dahlia register was published in England, more than fifty thousand individual cultivars have been "named after something or someone special to the grower", according to the author. Modern hybrid dahlias are from the genetic nucleus of *Dahlia pinnata* and *Dahlia coccinea*.

Collins, an engineer by profession but a dahlia grower and judge by avocation, devotes the first thirty pages of this compact book to the nitty-gritty of raising dahlias, how to use them in the garden, and a seasonal calendar indicating exactly how to nurture dahlias throughout the year. Then, when you have produced the perfect specimen, he advises how to cut, transport, and show it in a competition.

The main part of the book is a compendium of varieties, alphabetically arranged according to their cultivar name. At least four varieties are shown in detail color photos on facing pages. Each listing includes a description of type, size, color, original grower, where available. A list of suppliers is found at the end of the book.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA PLANT LIFE
Robert Ornduff, Phyllis M. Faber, and Todd Keeler

Berkeley, University of California Press, Revised Edition 2003, 176 pages, 156 color photos, 4½" x 7 ¼", hardcover, $39.95, softcover $16.95

This is a terrific book for California plant watchers. With our mountains and deserts we have one of the most varied floras of anywhere on earth. Our plants range in size from the stately coast redwood to the minute belly plants we love to view in our southern deserts following the winter rains. We have here in California the 4,000 year old bristlecone pine and we have diminutive annuals whose life span can be counted in weeks.

This introductory guide, an update of Ornduff's 1974 book is short, selective, and accessibly written for a wide general audience. It includes those plants that are the most common and the most spectacular species. The scientific names conform to the current 1993 Jepson Manual.

Gaining an understanding and enjoyment of the plant life found in our California should help each of us to be stewards of our rich plant resource.

Reviewed by Suzie Heap

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KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate $65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

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